"A Modern Aladdin," by Roward Pyle (Harper & Brothers), is an amazingly good story. It is concerned with astrology, alchemy, and the black art, and its situations have all the strength and mystery and terror which properly belong to those practices. Its wicked necromancer is several hundred years old when Mr. Pyle introduces us to him. He knows how to change charcoal into diamonds, and he has a talisman which not only assures him against death, but secures to him the services of a devil who can cook better than Mr. McAllister, and who carries disagreeable people away in bags and drowns them. How a young country bumpkin puts an end to this powerful and high-handed magician: how. after a great many terrible shocks and perils. he spoils the necromancer's danger-signalling mirror, circumvents his horoscope, smashes his talisman, releases his devil, and sends his shrivelled remnant squeaking and shuddering to perdition, this book tells us in explicit and most effective style. Numerous illustrations. also by Mr. Pyle, add to the narrative effect, and are in line with the mingled terror and humor of the text. We had thought that this style of story telling was a lost art, but Mr. Pyle has here renewed it for us in the fashion of a master.

In "A Romance of Two Brothers," a novel by Edgar Fawcett (Minerva Publishing Companyl, an American agnostic marries the daughter of an English clergyman under false pretences, and, after passing a few miserable years with her, dies of a hemorrhage. He might have continued to live had not his wife destroyed a flask containing a life clixir which he had discovered and which consisted of liquefied electricity. His wife had reasons of her own for breaking the flask. She said it was implous to interfere with the Divine plans in regard to death. She survived her husband by a number of years, and never expressed regret for having destroyed the clixir. The two brothers of the story are the offspring of this pair. The beautiful, red-haired wife of the elder brother wearies of her married life, with considerable reason, and drowns herself. The younger brother. who is unacquainted with his sister-in-law, prepares another flaskful of the clixir, from the receipt left by his father, and tries some of it upon a suicide who has just been taken out of the river. It is efficacious. The suicide is restored to life. It is a female suicide. She is red-haired and beautiful. Her memory has been lost and her heart weakened through the shock of death. Just as the younger brother is about to marry her the elder brother appears, her memory is suddenly restored, and she dies a second time. If the older brother had not appeared, the younger brother would have married his sister-in-law. Again the clixir flask has been broken, this time accidentally. It takes three days to make a fresh supply. May be the dead woman can be brought to life again, even after the lapse of three days, but the attempt is not made. Some things are more objectionable than the killing off of Mr. Fawcett's characters. The receipt for the liquefied electricity is destroyed. Curtain on the fifth act. So far as we can see, the genius of Mr. Wil-

liam Schmidt, more commonly and affectionately known as "The Only William." has rendered the discovery of a new mixed drink impossible. Mr. Schmidt's new manual. Flowing Bowl; What and When to Drink" (Charles L. Webster & Co.), is a comprehensive. a beautiful, and a remarkable book. It gives us the history of wine, beer, and spirits; information regarding physiology and diet; some account of tea. coffee. and mineral water; has a chapter on ethnography; quotes appropriate literature, English, German, and Latin, and affords receipts for 519 beverages, including the cold and the Russian bishop, the several sillabubs, twenty-seven pages of punches, numerous other pages of liquors, rataflas and bowls, and a great number of such specialties and subtleties as the Queen of Sheba. the Hannibal Hamlin, the Broker's Thought, the Easter Crocus, the Alabazam, the Sitting Bull Fizz. and the Weeper's Joy. We do not know a simliar book which can approach "The Flowing Bowl" in delicacy of sentiment, poetry of ex-pression, and earnestness of thought. A portrait of the author affords a notably handsome frontispiece, and accounts for the excellence

'My Canadian Journal," by Lady Dufferin (D. Appleton & Co.), is a record of the writer's social experiences during the time that her husband was Governor-General of the Dominion, from 1872 to 1878, and it includes also some account of the several trips made by Lord and Lady Dufferin to the United States in the course of that period. It is a book of chat made up of weekly letters to the writer's mether. In a preface Lady Dufferin calls attention to the fact that the first pages of her book were written nearly twenty years ago and she ventures the suggestion that in "a prosperous and quick-growing country like Canada" things must have changed very much since then. She penned these adjectives a few days before the appearance of the last Canadian census, which, as everybody knows, fails wholly to agree with them. Of the American cities Chicago seems to have impressed and pleased Lady Dufferin most. he wanted some of the Palmer House chairs for her own drawing room at Clandeboye. It is a pity that she should have conceived the idea that the great Chicago dry goods mer-chant spells his name "Lighter." St. Louis, judging by the journal, is the second of Amer-ican cities for splendor and delicate charm, though there is an especially good word for Buffalo. In New York she was amused by a theatrical character. Col. Sellers, impersonated by an excellent actor, "Raymond by name," and Mr. Sam Ward's bouquets live and glow in a number of places in Lady Dufferin's very The bound copies of the Century Magazine

interesting pages. from May to October of the present year remind us anow that we can never cease from wondering at the beauties of this perfect periodical, no matter how familiar they may be-

Sir Edwin Arnold treated his American publishers much better than he did the readers of the Daily Telegraph. His newspaper record of his recent travels was not especially edilying. but the sketches of Japanese life contained in his "Japonica" (Charles Scribner's Sons), afford a delightful volume, and its beauty and interest are enhanced in a very great degree by the exquisite illustrations of Mr. Robert

Though we cannot feel that Prof. Cesare Lombroso of the University of Turin has conclusively proved to us in his volume. "The Man of Genius" (imported by Charles Scribner's Sons), that the man in question is in the nature of things insane, and that he is more apt than not to be undersized and to have the rickets, we must still acknowledge the entertaining quality of the author's statistics and deductions bearing upon this idea. It seems to us that we shall have to come to a better general understanding of what genius is, and who has it, before we shall be in a position to gather anything more than amusement from such data and speculations as Prof. Lombroso here

"The Burning of Rome," a story of the days of Bero, by the Rev. Alfred J. Church (Macmillan & Co.), administers considerable historical in-

formation in very agreeable fashion.
"Elton Hazlewood." a story by Frederick
George Scott, is published by Thomas Whitta-

'An Artificial Fate," a novel by Clarence Boutelle, comes from M. J. Ivers & Co.

J. S. Ogiivie publishes "Love and Rebellion," a story of the civil war, by Miss M. C. Keller. G. P. Putnam's Sons publish "A Guide to Greek Tragedy." by Prof. Lowis Campbell of the University of St. Andrews.
"Barracks. Bivouses, and Battles," by Archi-

baid Forbes, is a volume of reprinted sketches (Macmillan & Co.) From Cassell & Co. we have "The White House at Inch Gow," an illustrated story by

Caristianity and Infallibility," an occay by

the Rev. Daniel Lyons, is published by Longmans, Green & Co. "A Study in Cornellic," by Prof. Lee Davis Lodge of the Columbian University, Washing-

ton, is published by John Murphy & Co., Baltimore. Louis Gathmann of Chicago publishes a little volume entitled "Rain Produced at Will." The author believes that man is master of the

Parts 1 and 2 of the "Eighth Annual Report of the Bureau of Statistics of Labor of the State of New York " are published by James B. Lyon, Albany. The two volumes consider respectively the hours of labor, and strikes and

Women's Thoughts for Women " is a little volume of quotations chosen and arranged by Bose Porter (Anson D. F. Randolph & Co.). "Mistress Branican," translated from the French of Jules Verne by A. Etoelet (Cassell Company), is another of those world-compassing stories which amaze and delight. It starts in California and ends in Australia. It overflows with incidents, and L Benett has sup plied it with a great quantity of striking illus-

Volume XV. of Dr. Joseph Parker's "The People's Bible" (Funk & Wagnalls Company) extends from Isaiah xxvii. to Jeremiah xix. Among the delightful novelties of the season suited for holiday gifts is an excellent edition in three volumes of the "Arabian Nights," seected from Lane's version of these famous stories, with additions newly translated from the Arabic by Stanley Lane-Pool. It is in the well-known style of the "Knickerbocker Nug-gets." (G. P. Putnam's Sons.)

Albert Scott & Co., Chicago, publish "Prin-cess Ilse," a legend translated from the German by Florence M. Cronise.
"The Man From Nowhere" is the first of a

series of short stories by Flora Haines Loughead, which are to be issued monthly (C. A. Murdock & Co., San Francisco). The most superb book of the year is the new edition of Washington Irving's "Alhambra."

issued by G P. Putnam's Sons. It is in two octavo volumes, and in point of paper, print-ing, binding, decorations, and illustrations, it is as delightful to the eye as the writing of Washington Irving is to the mind.. It is almost sixty years since the first edition of this book was offered to the public; and the appearance of such an edition as this affords a striking proof of literary immortality.

THIS HISTORY THROWN IN

With the Gilt Clock and Candlesticks Two Russian Peasants Offered for Sale.

Maset Lochtimon and Erste Whoton, two unkempt Russians, were arraigned before Justice Kelly at Jefferson Market yesterday as suspicious Fracters. They are the men ar-Office ir Wall street by Detective Sergeants Armstrong and McGinnis. One of them carried a large gilt bronze clock of peculiar work manship, and the other had a pair of very large gilt candelabra. These articles they had taken to the Assay Office to have them assayed for gold, and as they declined to tell where the things came from they were arrested. In court the men said that they had bought



the clock and cande Tlabra in Russia for 155 roubles, which is about \$80, and brought them to this country last July. The prisoners were discharged, and the articles were returned to them, to be taken to their home in a fifth-story room at 30 Willett street The are said to be worth between \$2,000 and \$3,000, on account of

ONE OF THE CANCESTICES. the workmanship, and not the material. A Russian peasant woman who accompanied the men to court told this

" For many years the clock and candelabra stood in a castle in the south of Russia, in which castle so many deeds of cruelty were which castle so many deeds of cruelty were done to the peasants that it became a by word through that part of the country. The other furnishings of the castle were changed, but these ornaments never were touched. At length the peasants attached superstitions to them. They said that the red candles which burned in the candelabra were colored with the blood of peasants, and at every movement of the clock's hands a drop of peasant blood was shed. At



last the cruelty of the nobles who lived in the castle became so unbearable that the peasants determined on revenge. One night many years ago the castle was sacked and burned, and those of the family who were not killed fied. The peasants were too superstitious to destroy the clock and candelabra, believing that there were spirits in them, so they buried them in a secret spot. Afterward the uncle of this man Lochtimon dug them up, but did not dare seil them in Bussia. for fear of the vengeance of the nobles whose castle the ornaments had been taken from."

How the clock and the candelabra got to this country Lochtimon himself tells. He says; "My wife and I came here last July, the Uth, I think it was, when we landed. We had just six marks in money and a basket packed with our clothing. I had taken the clock and the candelabra to pleces and packed them among the clothes. When the Custom House inspector came to my basket he said, 'I'm in a hurry. Put your basket out here. Then he ran his hands over the top and said, 'All right,' and we went on."

Lochtimon tried to sell the things to a dealer THE CLOCK.

hands over the top and said. 'All right,' and we went on."

Lochtimon tried to sell the things to a dealer in bronzes in Fifth avenue. The dealer would not pay the price asked, but he exhibited the articles in his window. Afterward the things were taken to the Assay Office.

Inspector Byrnes has sent notice to the Custom House concerning the affair and the manner in which the clock and candelabra came through without being discovered will probably be made the subject of an investigation.

Died from Fright in a Runaway Accident BINGHAMTON, Dec. 11.-Mrs. Charles Bliss of-East Maine started to drive to her home four miles west of this city yesterday afternoon. mlies west of this city yesterday atternoon, when the horses took fright and ran away. Mrs. Bliss clung to the lines and finally succeeded in driving the horses into a barbedwire fence, where they were stopped. Several men who were in a blacksmith shop near by sprang to the assistance of Mrs. Bliss and found her lying in the bottom of the wagon in a supposed swoon. Upon closer investigation, it was discovered that she was dead. She had undoubtedly died from fright.

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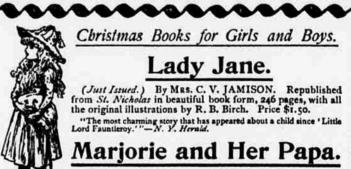
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